

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. 96-9

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b), RM-8736
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Ukiah, California)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: January 26, 1996; Released: February 13, 1996

Comment Date: April 5, 1996

Reply Comment Date: April 22, 1996

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. Before the Commission for consideration is a petition for rule making filed by LifeTalk Broadcasting Association ("petitioner")¹ requesting the allotment of Channel 246A to Ukiah, California, and its reservation for noncommercial educational use. Petitioner stated its intention to apply for Channel 246A if it is allotted to Ukiah, as requested.²

2. In support of the proposal, petitioner advises that the proximity of Station KVIE-TV, Channel 6, Sacramento, California, precludes the availability of any noncommercial educational channels in the reserved band from which a full Class A channel could operate to serve the Ukiah, California, area. Petitioner asserts that the reservation of Channel 246A at Ukiah would enable it to provide noncommercial educational service to the community in full compliance with the technical requirements of the Commission's Rules.

3. Commercial channels are generally not reserved for noncommercial use in allotment proceedings unless channels in the reserved portion of the FM band (Channels 201-220) are unavailable due to VHF television Channel 6 interference, or they are precluded due to the presence of Canadian or Mexican allotments. *See generally, Butte, Montana*, 9 FCC Rcd 2180 (1994); *Buhl, Minnesota*, 9 FCC Rcd 2606 (1994). According to a staff analysis, in this instance, while a majority of the noncommercial channels are af-

fectured by television channel 6 in Sacramento and Eureka, California, all are precluded from use at Ukiah by other domestic noncommercial educational FM stations. Therefore, the enumerated potential television channel 6 interference in this instance does not merit the reservation of a commercial channel for noncommercial use at Ukiah.³

4. Having determined that petitioner's proposal does not meet the necessary criteria to reserve a channel in the commercial band, we will, however, propose to allot Channel 246A to Ukiah based upon the expressed interest in providing an additional FM service to that community. In the event Channel 246A is ultimately allotted to Ukiah, petitioner may submit an application therefor specifying noncommercial educational programming.

5. A staff review of the proposal reveals that Channel 246A can be allotted to Ukiah, California, consistent with the minimum distance separation requirements of Section 73.207(b)(1) of the Commission's Rules without the imposition of a site restriction, utilizing coordinates 39-09-00 and 123-12-30.

6. In light of the above, we will solicit comments on the proposed amendment to the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.207(b) of the Commission's Rules, with respect to Ukiah, California, as follows:

City	Channel No.	
	Present	Proposed
Ukiah, California	233B, 277B, 290B	233B, 246A, 277B, 290B

7. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

8. Interested parties may file comments on or before **April 5, 1996**, and reply comments on or before **April 22, 1996**, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, as follows:

LifeTalk Broadcasting Association
Attn: Rudy H. Dolinsky
402 E. Yakima Avenue, Suite 1320
Yakima, WA 98901

¹ Petitioner advises that it is the licensee of noncommercial educational Station KSOH(FM), Yakima, Washington.

² Although the petitioner's request was signed and an address provided, it failed to include an affidavit verifying that the statements contained in the petition are accurate to the best of its knowledge. Section 1.52 of the Commission's Rules requires that the original of any document filed with the Commission by a party not represented by counsel be signed and verified by the party and his/her address stated. In the absence of such verification, the petition may be dismissed. Section 1.401(b) of the Commission's Rules concerning rule making proceedings places petitioners on notice that their proposal must conform with the

requirements of Section 1.52 regarding subscription and verification. *See also Amendment of Section 1.420 and 73.3584 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Abuses of the Commission's Processes*, 5 FCC Rcd 3911, 3919 n.41 (1990). The petitioner is requested to rectify this omission in its comments.

³ Moreover, we note that, according to the Commission's records, an application has been filed by Northern California Public Broadcasting seeking to provide noncommercial educational service to Ukiah on Channel 202A (File No. BPED-940316ME). Additionally, noncommercial educational Station KPRA(FM), Channel 208B1, is licensed to Ukiah (File No. BLED-870528KE).

9. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. *See Certification that Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

10. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Nancy Joyner, Mass Media Bureau. (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r) and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. *Showings Required.* Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. *Cut-off Procedures.* The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (*See* Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal(s) in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. *Comments and Reply Comments; Service.* Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (*See* Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. *Number of Copies.* In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. *Public Inspection of Filings.* All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C.